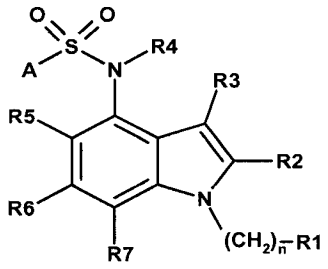
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia),



(Ia),

wherein

R^1 represents a $-NR^8R^9$ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloaliphatic radical, which may contain at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted, optionally at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen as a ring member containing mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6 and R^7, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl; or a phenyl or a heteroaryl radical

R^4 is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical

optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R^8 and R^9, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched,

aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

with the proviso that R^8 and R^9 are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them, R^8 or R^9, is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C_1-C_4 aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or

R^8 and R^9 together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

A represents a phenyl or napthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

radical, wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomersin any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 represents a -NR^8R^9 radical or a saturated or unsaturated optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl,

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6 and R^7, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted

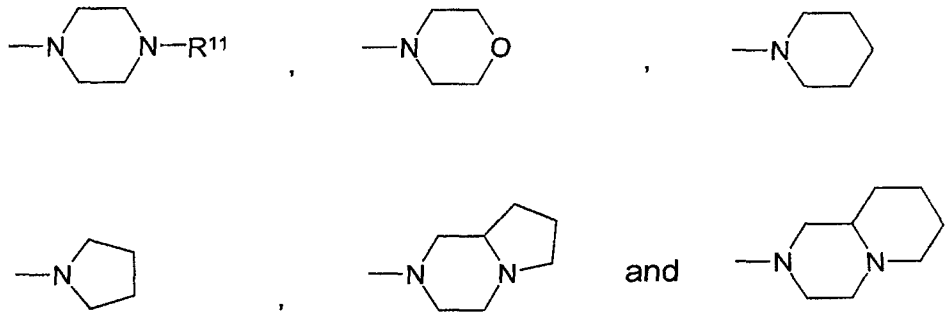
C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^8 and R^9, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_{10} alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl, or

R^8 and R^9 together with bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- 6- or 7-membered, wherein each one of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkoxy and benzyl.

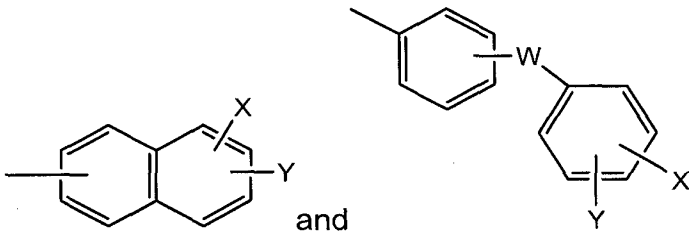
6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 5, wherein R^8 and R^9, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_{10} alkyl radical, or

R^8 and R^9 together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein R^{11}, if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents a radical chosen from



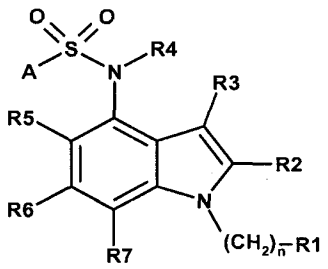
wherein X and Y independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a -$NR^{12}R^{13}$ radical,

wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH_2, O, S group or a NR^{14} radical,

wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl.

8. (Previously Presented) A sulfonamide compound of general formula



(Ib),

(Ib)

wherein

R^1 represents a $-NR^8R^9$ radical,

R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6 and R^7, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl, or a phenyl or a heteroaryl radical,

R^4 is hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

R^8 and R^9, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, C_{1-4} aliphatic radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide or trifluoromethyl,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl or naphthyl ring optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxyl, halogen, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, -O-phenyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 perfluoroalkoxy, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl, or phenyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylthio, trifluoromethyl radical, cyano radical or $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ radical, wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, identical or different, represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl , and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

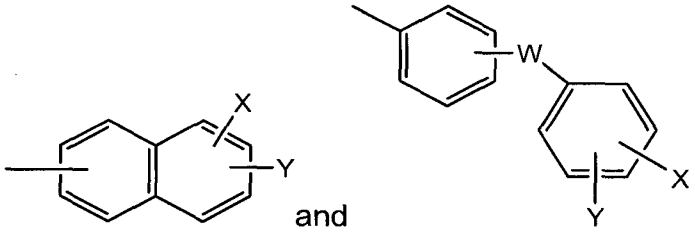
optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6 and R^7, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical, or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein R^4 represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkenyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_2-C_6 alkynyl radical, wherein each of the substituents may be chosen from hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound according toclaim 8, wherein R^8 and R^9, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, C_1-C_4 alkyl radical optionally at least mono-substituted by hydroxy, fluorine, chlorine, bromide and trifluoromethyl.

12. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8, wherein A represents A represents a radical chosen from



and

wherein X and Y independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ radical,

wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH_2, O, S group or a NR^{14} radical,

wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl.

13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 8 selected from the group consisting of

[2] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphtalene-2-sulfonamide,

[3] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-naphtalene-1-sulfonamide,

[4] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenylbenzenesulfonamide,

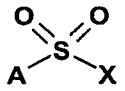
[5] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-2-(naphtalene-1-yl)-ethanesulfonamide,

[6] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-4-phenoxybenzenesulfonamide,

[7] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-4-yl]-3,5-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide,

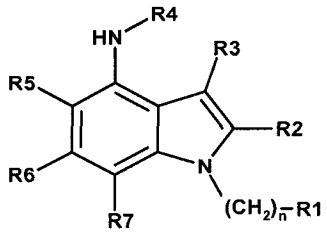
and their corresponding salts.

14 (Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide ~~derivative~~ of general formula (Ia) ~~and/or (Ib),~~ according to claim 1, wherein a compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein A has the meaning according to claim 1, and X is an acceptable leaving group, is reacted with at least one 4-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably protected derivatives;



(III)

wherein R^1-R^7 and n have the meaning according toclaim 1 to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may

be removed.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for obtaining a sulfonamide ~~derivative~~ of general formula (Ia) ~~and/or (Ib),~~ according to claim 1, wherein R^1-R^3, R^5-R^7, n and A have the meaning according toclaim 1, and R^4 represents C_1-C_6 alkyl, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein R^1-R^3, R^5-R^7, n and A have the meaning according toclaim 1, and R^4 represents an hydrogen atom, with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing salts of the compounds of general formula (Ia) ~~and/or (Ib),~~ according to claim 1, the process comprising reacting at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.

17. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising least one compound according to claim 1 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 18-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 8 and one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 46-72 (Cancelled).